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1988/01/00



Directorate of
Intelligence



China: Plutonium Production Reactor Problems

A Research Paper



Approved for Release
Date MAR 9 1962

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January 1988

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Exemptions: (b)(1), (b)(3)

Introduction

temporarily while components were designed and fabricated.

China's [redacted] Production Reactor

Soviet Role

In the mid-1950s, the Soviet Union secretly agreed to help China develop the capability to build and deliver nuclear weapons. This agreement began to fall apart in June 1959 [redacted]

[redacted] China already had been provided with plans, equipment, and technical aid [redacted] the production of nuclear weapons. One facility started under this agreement was a plutonium-production complex near the city of Yumen, the state operated (now Ministry of Nuclear Industry) 404 Factory [redacted]

China Finishes Alone

The Soviet departure left the reactor project in a difficult situation. None of the key components had been received, and the project was forced to halt

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